



AANIIH NAKODA COLLEGE

Empowering Identity and Ways of Knowing

**Statement by
President Carole Falcon-Chandler**

SENATE FINANCE & CLAIMS

Exhibit No. 4

Date 4/8/15

Bill No. HB 196



Aaniiih Nakoda College (ANC) is one of 37 college's nation-wide and one of seven tribal colleges in Montana. ANC was chartered by the Fort Belknap Indian Community on November 8, 1983. Like other Montana tribal colleges, ANC has an open door policy. Any student who applies and meets the admission criteria can attend college. We are accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and ANC courses are transferable to other accredited colleges and universities.

The ANC chart attached indicates the Non-beneficiary funds that have been received from 2004 through 2014. In fiscal year (FY) 2001, the Montana tribal colleges received an appropriation of \$427,000 for non-beneficiary students; however only 1 year later \$96,000 was received. The chart indicates the inconsistency of funding until Governor Bullock gave the Non-beneficiary Funding a permanent place in the State of Montana budget. ANC has not actively recruited non-beneficiary students until this past year due to the unreliable funding. The non-beneficiary students at ANC can range from 14 to 2.

It is cost effective for non-beneficiary students to attend Tribal Colleges for their first two years, as they live in the same isolated rural areas that American Indian students do. The students in north central Montana are place-bound because of their children, home responsibilities, ranching/farming, etc. and have chosen not to leave their homes.

Over the past 40 years I have worked in the education field; with the last 21 years at Aaniiih Nakoda College. I have witnessed the struggles that our college has faced and those of our fellow tribal colleges; but we have endured financially to ensure all ANC students receive a quality education. Through the dedication of our faculty and staff, ANC continues to fulfill our Mission Statement and institutional goals, on limited funds received from the Department of Interior, through the Tribally Controlled Community College Act (PL 95-471).

Statistically, students who attend tribal colleges are four times as likely to finish at four year institutions. The ideal is for tribal colleges to work closely with the Montana University System, addressing the educational needs of all students; to give all eligible students the foundation for success; in turn they become contributing citizens. I invite you to visit any or all seven Montana tribal colleges to see for yourself the progress, the research, the quality of faculty and staff and the investment made for every student's academic achievement.

Sincerely,

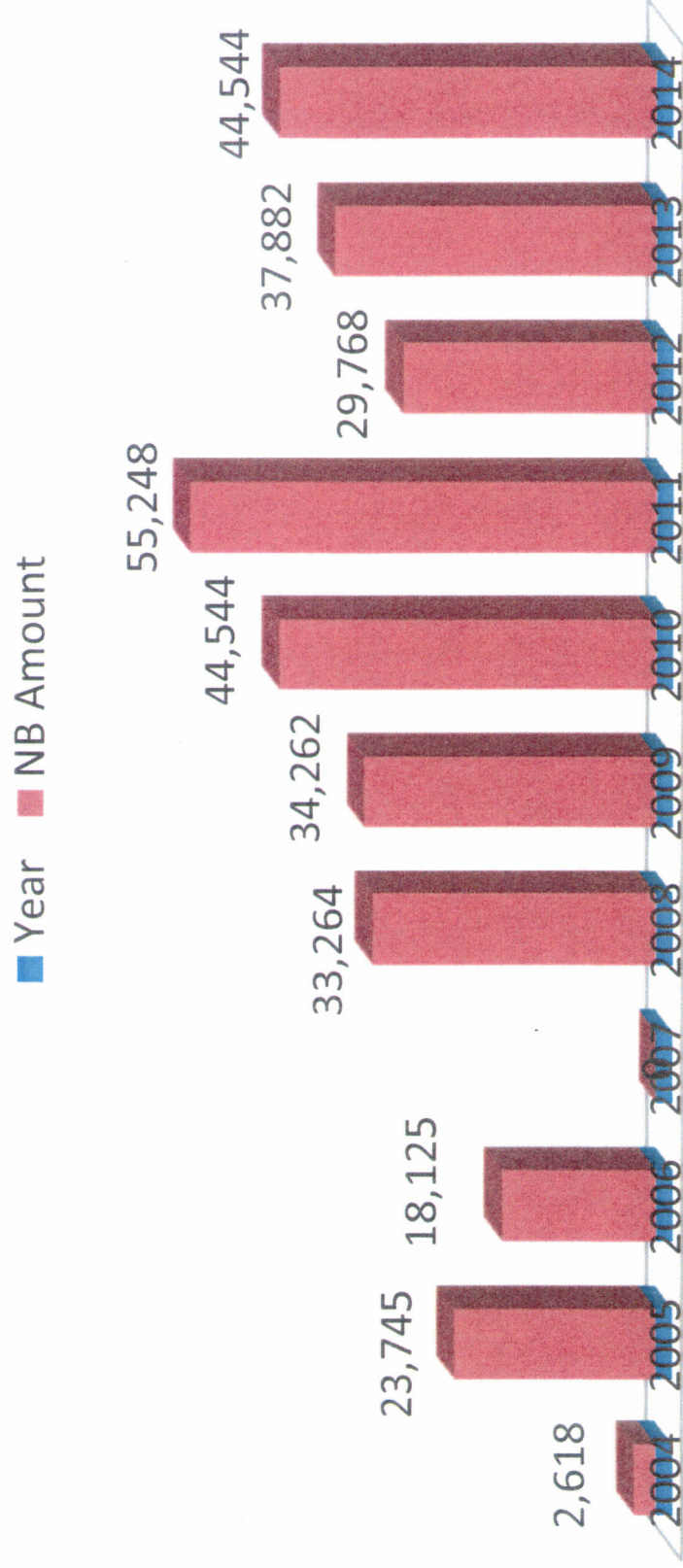
Carole Falcon-Chandler, Ph.D
President

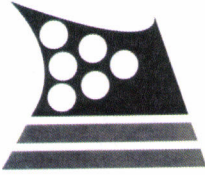


P.O. Box 159 • Harlem, Montana 59526
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Accredited through Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

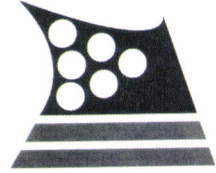
Aaniih Nakoda College Non-Beneficiary \$ Received





Blackfeet Community College

Box 819 – Browning, Montana 59417
Administration 406-338-5441 – Academic Affairs 406-338-5411
Vocational Education 406-338-5111 – Student Services 406-338-5421
1-800-549-7457 – Fax 406-338-3272



Remember Our Past...Build Our Future

January 26, 2015

Dear Montana House Education Committee,

Tribal colleges are changing the face of education in Montana's tribal communities, and because of our proximity to neighboring communities we are serving significant numbers of non-beneficiary students in our higher education communities. Non-beneficiary funding has been in recent years characterized as a fund directed toward tribal colleges, when in fact, these dollars are provided so that tribal colleges can provide programs that support these students.

A legislative statutory change in non-beneficiary funding per student is needed to assist tribal colleges in planning for services. Currently, tribal colleges in Montana can only project spending based on our Bureau of Indian Education tribally controlled funding, this excludes funding for non-beneficiary students.

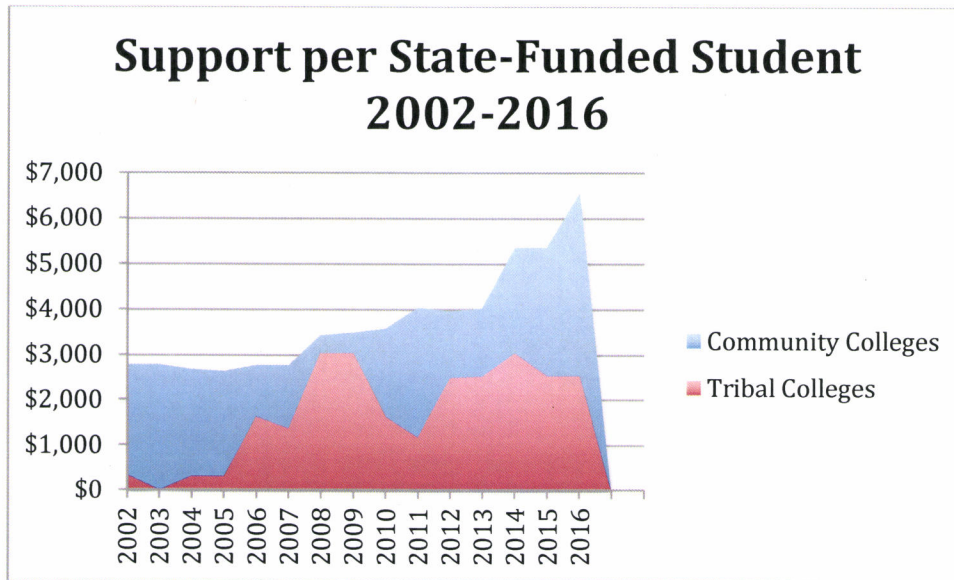
Tribal colleges offer a variety of programs in close proximity to rural communities that are attracting more non-beneficiary students. Overall the majority of degree-seeking tribal college students, will enter the Montana University System. Tribal college students are more likely to attain a bachelor's degree from a four-year institution if they started at a tribal college first and then transferred.

Montana's tribal college contribute greatly to the state-wide implementation of Indian Education for All (IEFA) with regards to higher education goals geared toward preparing students for working with and in diverse communities. Each tribal college has prioritized culture and language as corner-stones of their curriculum, institution, and workforce development goals.

Tribal colleges are good for Montana! On Behalf of Blackfeet Community College, we look forward to assisting in any way we can to inform the legislative process to best support our students in higher education!

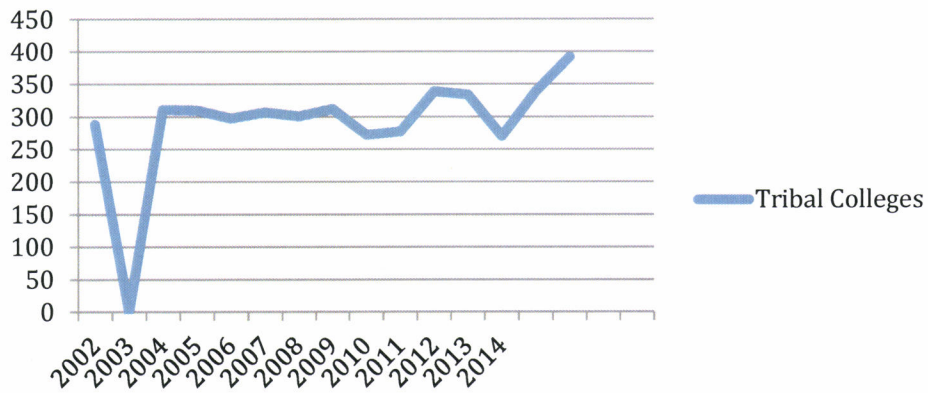
Respectfully,

Dr. Billie Jo Kipp
Blackfeet Community College
President



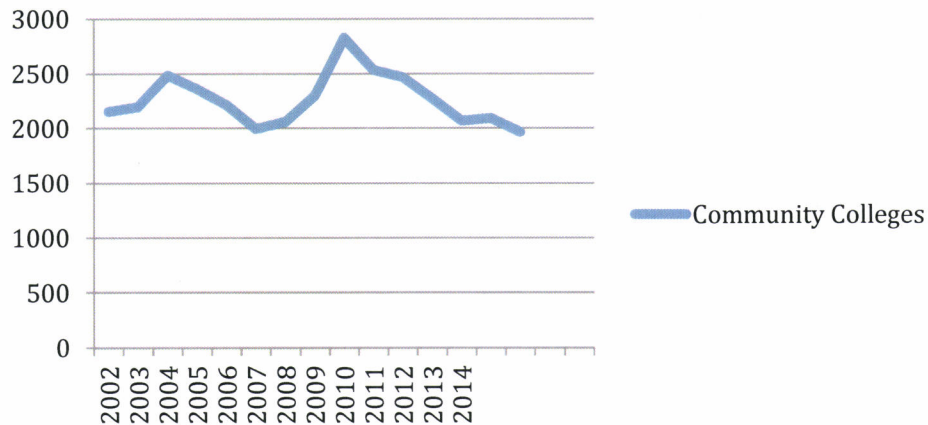
Legislative Fiscal Division

Tribal Colleges Non-Beneficiary Student Enrollment, 2012-2016



Legislative Fiscal Division

Community College Enrollment, 2002-2016



Legislative Fiscal Division



MTCPA

*David Yarlott, Jr., Chair
Little Big Horn College*

*Nate St. Pierre, Vice Chair
Stone Child College*

*Robert Depoe, Secretary
Salish Kootenai College*

*Carole Falcon-Chandler
Aaniiih Nakoda College*

*Billie Jo Kipp
Blackfeet Community College*

*Richard Little Bear
Chief Dull Knife College*

*Haven Gourneau
Fort Peck Community
College*

MONTANA TRIBAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

House Bill 196

April 7, 2015

Thank you for this opportunity to share the impacts and importance of Non-Beneficiary Funds at our respective Montana Tribal Colleges!

The State of Montana has supported the seven MT TCU's in providing funds for non-native Montana Residents attending the tribal colleges. The funds have helped in defraying the cost of educating the "non-beneficiary" students enrolled at the tribal colleges. I believe that the State of Montana is the first State in the United States to provide non-beneficiary funds for tribal colleges. I take great pride in our State for doing so. For this, I thank the leadership in Montana in supporting tribal colleges and for making these funds available. And, because of this significant action, several states have followed Montana's lead in providing funds for non-natives attending a tribal college in their State.

At present, I will share with you the impacts of the non-beneficiary funds to Little Big Horn College. Some of what I have to say may be unique, but most of what I say could be similar to what occurs at the other tribal colleges in our State.

Little Big Horn College does not and usually does not have significant numbers of non-beneficiary students enrolling. We typically enroll 10-15 non-native students. Not all are resident's of Montana. As you may be aware, non-beneficiary funds are provided for only non-beneficiary students that are resident's of Montana.

The non-native students enroll at tribal colleges for a number of reasons. For us at Little Big Horn College, its because our tuition is much lower than the Universities, its because of convenience for local resident's, its because they can't afford to go elsewhere, its because we have quality education, its because we are small and its because they get a better faculty/staff to student ratio.

What are the impacts and how is it important? I want to share with you what I know about several non-native students that attended Little Big Horn College and how there time at our college has impacted their lives. I wish we would have been able to bring some of those students, so they could share their own stories.

When I first became President at Little Big Horn College in 2002, there was talk of a Jolinda Hill, a non-native that attended LBHC. She went on

and must have obtained a Teaching Degree. The word that got back to me was how she would share stories about, how Little Big Horn College helped her in becoming a school teacher in the Hardin K-12 School District.

Tessa Kirshmen-Renova was a Pre-Nursing student. She was very active in the TRiO Programs and different student activities. She transferred to Montana State University Bozeman into their Nursing Program. A few years ago I ran into her. She was a Registered Nurse (RN) at the Billings Clinic Hospital. I hear that she credits Little Big Horn College for helping her succeed to the position she is in now.

Randen Schoppe was a Business Administration student. He became very active in our Student Government and Student Clubs. He was elected Chair to the American Indian Business Leaders Student Club. If you look at the name of the Student Club, a non-native being elected Chair says a lot to how other students felt about him. He transferred to University of Montana to study Law. He is now a Attorney in Hardin, Montana.

These three are just a few that came to my mind immediately.

I feel that the Non-Beneficiary Funds make tremendous impacts for our students. I see it as an investment in the future of our young people and members of our community. An educated individual is more likely to obtain a decent paying job. An educated individual is less likely to be a burden on our social welfare. If we think of it in that manner, we could probably say, "you can pay it now or you can pay it later". Paying it later would be much more costlier.

I thank you for your consideration in supporting the continuance of the Non-Beneficiary Funds and House Bill 196, sponsored by Representative Susan Webber! House Bill 196 if passed would allow for funds to tribal colleges being more equitable with what Community Colleges receive.

Thank you!

Dr. David Yarlott, Jr.
President
Little Big Horn College